



The Whiskeytown Nugget

The official newspaper
of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
Spring 2003



As winter comes to an end and the warm days of summer approach, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area is bursting with spring activities.

Snow melting off the summit of Shasta Baldy is increasing daily, filling the spectacular mountain streams with cold clear water.

Whiskeytown is a fantastic place to watch the emerging spring and track the first hints of summer. Rangers, maintenance, and volunteer staff are here to assist you in making your visit a pleasant experience rich with the rewards of happy memories and quality recreation. We hope you come to the park and learn new things, not only about the park's natural history, but also about this country's wealthy cultural history—from the early use by the Wintu Indians through the Gold Rush Era of 1849, and into the American Conservation movement.

A new non-profit organization named the Friends of Whiskeytown was recently created to help further protect the park. I invite you to join the Friends of Whiskeytown and become involved in the park's activities through a more personal commitment to this special place.

Please have a safe and enjoyable visit to Whiskeytown. On behalf of the National Park Service, thank you for making time in your busy schedule to stop here and smell the flowers.

Jim F. Milestone



Whiskeytown is home to a colorful array of native wildflowers.

Whiskeytown: From Waterfalls to Wildflowers

THE SHORT WEEKS BETWEEN THE DRENCHING RAINS OF WINTER AND SCORCHING HEAT OF SUMMER ARE A SPECIAL TIME FOR WHISKEYTOWN. THE crisp blue sky and t-shirt inspiring weather brings people out of winter hiding and up the flanks of Shasta Baldy in search of roaring waterfalls and a colorful explosion of spring wildflowers.



Indian Warrior

If you've only experienced Whiskeytown during the busy summer season you may be surprised by some of the hidden treasures the park offers to those willing to risk muddy shoes or the possibility of a spring rain shower. As warmer temperatures arrive the snow that has blanketed the higher elevations melts into steep stream channels, forming cascading waterfalls that offer a scenic reward to hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians.

Boulder Creek, Brandy Creek and Crystal Creek are each graced by dramatic waterfalls. Boulder Creek Falls drops 137 feet in a series of cascades through a narrow cut in a densely forested hillside. This spectacular waterfall is the highlight of a trail that begins in the manzanita shrublands along South Shore Drive and continues upwards in elevation to mixed conifer forests that are studded with numerous dogwood and bigleaf maple trees. The trail crosses Boulder Creek three times before reaching the fourth crossing just downstream from the base of the waterfall. Be sure to exercise caution while crossing the creek during the high spring run-off. It's a good idea to make the trip with a friend and bring along a walking stick. Your feet may get wet, but if you enjoy seeing the landscape alive and awake after a long winter's rest you will find the soggy shoes and cold toes worth the effort.



The sunlit cascades of Boulder Creek Falls

If walking through cold streams isn't quite your style, there are still numerous opportunities to enjoy the spring season at Whiskeytown. A visit to Oak Bottom campground this time of year offers the chance to view the unexpected. Instead of dry paths winding between campsites you may find green grass and the beautiful Indian warrior wildflower during the first weeks of spring. These deep red blooms generally appear in late February and last for just a short time.



Shooting Stars

The Mount Shasta Mine Loop is a great trail for enjoying the best of spring flowers. By March you stand a good chance of finding yellow monkeyflowers along the seasonal creeks in this area. In April, purple lupine and bright orange California poppies enliven the scene throughout the park, and by May the hills are golden with the glow of wild members of the sunflower family. Park maps and trail descriptions are free for the asking at the Whiskeytown Visitor Center. So dust off your walking shoes, get your bike out of the garage or saddle up your favorite horse and head for the hills of Whiskeytown. The waterfalls and wildflowers of our spectacular northern California springtime await your discovery.

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www.nps.gov/whis





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Dedicated in September 1963 by President John F. Kennedy, Whiskeytown Lake was created as part of the Central Valley Project for the purposes of flood control, irrigation, and power generation. With more than 40,000 acres in a mountain lake setting, Whiskeytown is home to a variety of wildlife.

Superintendent
Jim F. Milestone

Chief of Administration
Colleen Howe

Chief Ranger
Steve Prokop

Chief of Interpretation & Cultural Resources
Steve Thede

Chief of Maintenance
Jerry Wheeler

Chief of Natural Resource Management
Paul DePrey

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

Website
www.nps.gov/whis

Fax Number
(530)246-5154

Park Headquarters
(530)242-3400

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Editor: Teri Tucker
Layout and graphics: Phyllis Swanson

Spring Renewal in the Park

Welcome Whiskeytown’s Newest Wildlife Additions



Sue Kelso - Volunteer

ONE OF THE greatest delights of spring is the emergence of animals with their new young. If you are patient, quiet, and observant, you just might be lucky

enough to spot mother and baby out for an early morning or late afternoon jaunt, or in the case of our feathered friends, a swim or test flight. Some of the best times to observe diurnal animals (those active during the day--as opposed to nocturnal animals, which are active at night) are when they are feeding in the early morning and just before dusk. Look for signs to help you determine if animals have recently visited the area. Tracks, scat, hair caught on twigs, and flattened or partially eaten vegetation are all good evidence.



A fawn's spots help to camouflage it from hungry predators.

The young animal most commonly spotted (pardon the pun) at Whiskeytown is the offspring of the black tailed deer. Does frequently give birth from late spring into July to one to three young. The fawns stay with their mother through winter, and sometimes even longer. Deer browse on twigs, leaves and young shoots of plants. They also graze on grass and eat wild fruits. It is good to remain still and downwind if you want to spend time observing deer, since they lack the ability to see still objects well and rely instead on their keen sense of hearing and smell to detect the presence of humans and other potential predators. If you come across a young fawn that appears to have been left unattended, DO NOT pick it up or move it. The mother deer is likely close at hand, and will return for the fawn after you have left.

Although they are seen less frequently, visitors report black bear sightings with great excitement. Bears in the park feed on berries, insects, fish, and carrion. Despite their name, black bears vary in color from black, brown, and cinnamon, to blonde. The cubs are born during the winter while their mother dens up in a fallen log or other den to sleep for varying lengths of time. Mother bears generally give birth every other year. A single cub is usually born the first year, but twins and triplets are common after that. The young are born blind and weigh in at just six to eight ounces. These tiny babies are much more developed by the time mother bear is ready to leave the den in the spring to forage for fresh food. The mother uses a

woof-woof to warn the cubs of danger, and a whimper to call them. If you are fortunate enough to see a mother bear and her cubs in the park, it is important to observe these animals from a safe distance. Although no visitors to Whiskeytown have been attacked, mother bears can become very aggressive if they feel that their young are threatened.

Observing wildlife in nature is one of the most memorable experiences for people visiting the park, but take steps to ensure you find no surprise or unwelcome visitors in your campsite or picnic area. Be sure to keep all food in the bear resistant food containers located in each campground, or suspended from a rope at least ten feet above the ground and four feet away from a tree trunk when camping in the backcountry. Deposit waste in bear-proof trash cans, and please, for your safety and the animals’, do not feed or attempt to touch or capture any creature. This is their home. Enjoy them at a respectful distance.



An American black bear cub stays close to mom.

Jr. Lifeguards Make a Difference



Steve Prokop
Chief Ranger

WHISKEYTOWN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA IS SPONSORING A JUNIOR Lifeguard Program this summer at Brandy Creek Beach. The program is open to young people between the ages of 12 and 16 and runs from June 23rd to August 15th. Parental or guardian consent is required. A total of 12 candidates will be selected following an interview and swim test.

Sessions will be held every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Participants will receive training in water safety, open-water lifeguard techniques and may be certified in CPR and Basic First Aid. The program will also introduce participants to search and rescue, wild-land fire control, park ranger boat patrol, kayaking, and natural resource protection. In addition, participants will take part in a physical conditioning program that emphasizes swimming.

A portion of the junior lifeguard’s duties will be to conduct basic swimming lessons at Brandy Creek Beach for children ages 6-10. Senior lifeguards will oversee the swim lessons, which will be held from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The Junior Lifeguard Program provides participants with job experience when applying for paid lifeguard jobs at Whiskeytown and other local water recreation locations. Junior lifeguards practice and develop water rescue skills above and beyond what they may experience in a swimming pool setting. Several National Park Service lifeguards, park rangers, and maintenance employees started out as Junior Lifeguards.

For more information or to apply for the program, call Whiskeytown Chief Ranger Stephen Prokop at 530-242-3413.



Junior lifeguards performing rescue-board training on simulated near-drowning victim.



JOIN THE FRIENDS OF WHISKEYTOWN

The Friends of Whiskeytown is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the National Park Service restore and protect the magnificent resources and recreational opportunities at Whiskeytown. Your contribution of \$25.00 or more will help the park to complete projects that would be otherwise unfunded.

Yes! I want to become a Friend of Whiskeytown and help protect Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of:

☐ \$15 student

☐ \$25 Park Partner

☐ \$50 Park Sponsor

☐ \$100 Park Steward

☐ \$250 Park Friend

☐ \$1,000 Charles Camden Society

☐ \$2,500 Arthur Coggins Society

☐ Other _____.

Donors of \$25 or more receive the Friends of Whiskeytown newsletter twice a year and are listed on the *Friends of Whiskeytown* Contributors Wall at the park Visitor Center. Please make check payable to the “Friends of Whiskeytown, Inc.” and mail to P.O. Box 105, Whiskeytown, CA 96095.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____

Email _____

Interested in volunteering? Yes / No (circle one)

Please call our Volunteer Manager’s office at (503) 242-3421 for more information.

The Friends of Whiskeytown was incorporated in December 2002, as an independent private nonprofit organization. The Friends of Whiskeytown operates under a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service to provide private funding for specific programs and projects that further the preservation, protection or enhancement of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. The Friends of Whiskeytown is not a membership organization, nor does it engage in political activity or other advocacy. The Friends of Whiskeytown does not receive federal funding of any kind. Contributions to the Friends of Whiskeytown are tax-deductible to the extent that the sum exceeds the value of benefits provided to the donor. For further information, call 530-246-1225.



Scientists Hit the Ground at Whiskeytown



Jennifer Gibson
Ecologist

THE NATIONAL PARK Service preserves and protects some of the world’s most scenic and important natural wonders. In order to manage and preserve the precious resources entrusted

to our care we must understand the existing conditions of our parks.

The Inventory and Monitoring Program was created to document the plants and



A researcher displays a bat found at Whiskeytown.

animals that are found in each park, and to track the health of park ecosystems. This new program will help identify the presence, distribution, and normal variation of plants and animals, as well as other important environmental factors like water, soil and climate. This baseline information will help determine the condition of park resources, preferably in the natural or unimpaired state.

This is the most comprehensive effort ever conducted to understand biodiversity in our National Parks. Whiskeytown is part of the Klamath Inventory and Monitoring Network. Whiskeytown began vertebrate inventories in 2002. Sci-



This immature albino pacific giant salamander was found by scientists in a Whiskeytown mountain stream.

entists from the National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and universities hit the ground and surveyed for bats, neotropical birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Scientists found several new species that had not been previously recorded at Whiskeytown, including two new species of bats, one new bird and one new amphibian.

As new information pours in, park staff are planning to begin a long-term monitoring program. This program will focus on the most significant indicators of ecological trends, otherwise known as “vital signs”. This type of monitoring will provide an early warning if

abnormal conditions develop, and will identify threats like pollution, climate change, and non-native species invasion in time to develop effective treatment measures. Monitoring park vital signs also gives the National Park Service a way to evaluate the success of restoration projects and other management activities.

If you are interested in learning more about the National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring Program visit our website at: www.nature.nps.gov/im/



Scientists found a red crossbill in the park, a bird that had never been found in Whiskeytown before.

Disease Threatens California Oaks

You Can Help Keep Shasta County Oaks Healthy

By Gretchen Ring, Vegetation Program Manager
SUDDEN OAK DEATH, FIRST OBSERVED IN MARIN County in 1995, is caused by a newly identified organism, *Phytophthora ramorum*, and has been confirmed in thirteen counties. Many thousands of trees have been lost. The disease kills tanoaks, coast live oak, California black oak, and Shreve oak. The disease has also been confirmed in Douglas fir and redwood trees. Some host plants that are believed to spread the disease include California bay, huckleberry, big - leaf maple, buckeye, rhododendron, manzanita, coffeeberry, toyon, and madrone.

Twelve of the thirteen affected counties are

in the Bay area, and the thirteenth is Curry County, Oregon, near the California border. Researchers at UC Berkeley and UC Davis have not yet found an effective treatment. Infection may be partially spread through spores traveling in rainwater or soil. Symptoms include dark or black areas on the trunks of oaks, often seeping or oozing thick black or reddish material. Leaf spots and twig dieback are seen on the host plants.

Federal and State quarantines are in effect to attempt to prevent the movement of any plant material from infected counties, such as Marin, to uninfected Counties, such as

Trinity, Shasta, Tehama, Butte, and the whole Sierra Nevada. You can help slow the spread of this disease by not moving firewood, chips, mulch, wreaths, or other plant material into uninfected areas. Stay on established trails and clean mud and soil from boots, tires, animal paws, etc. after visiting a natural area before traveling to another.

If you brought plant material or firewood with you that may have come from coastal California or southern Oregon, it should be

burned immediately or park authorities should be notified. More information and photos can be found at: www.suddenoakdeath.org.



The counties highlighted in pink on this map have confirmed cases of Sudden Oak Death.

Osprey Make a Splash at Whiskeytown



Tricia Ford
Visitor Use Assistant

SPLASH! I JERKED around in my kayak to see what had hit the water so hard behind me. I expected to find that one of my fellow kayakers had flipped their rig over while maneuvering around Boulder Creek Cove. Instead, a large bird emerged from the lake, dripping water and grasping a struggling trout in its talons - an osprey.

The osprey is the most exclusive fish eater of all birds of prey. 99% of its food is live fish caught in open water. Osprey are specialized for fishing. On each foot, two toes point forward and two point backward, giving them a strong grip on squirming fish. They hunt by hovering over the water then plunging in feet first, submerging partly or all the way. The breathing holes in their beaks have a special membrane that closes up when they dive, so that they don’t get water up their “nose.”

The spectacular dive and loud splash are some of the things that make the osprey hard to miss when you are out on the lake. Their excellent fishing skills are not just the envy of human anglers; they also attract the attention of our resident bald eagles. Eagles, larger and fiercer than ospreys, will occasionally harass an osprey until it drops its fish, which the eagle might catch in midair or retrieve from the water or shoreline.

The osprey has a loud, whistled call, “kyew kyew kyew kyew,” which signals its presence overhead. The osprey is dark brown above, white below, and has a white head with a prominent dark eye stripe.

You won’t find the osprey at Whiskeytown year-round. In late fall, they migrate to southern California, Mexico, Central and South America, traveling hundreds or even thousands of miles. They return each spring to breed at the lake. In the past six years, one new nest has been added each year. Look for the osprey’s substantial

stick nests on the giant electrical towers located at Carr Powerhouse, below the Whiskeytown Dam, and near the Boulder Creek trail. They can also be found near Oak Bottom Marina and at the corner of Highway 299 and Whiskey Creek Road. They have obviously adapted very well to these modern facilities, but a few still prefer to use trees.

The osprey has made quite a comeback since its population was decimated by decades of pesticide use. Chemicals like DDT were used to protect crops, but ended up in the bodies of top predators. Birds of prey like the osprey were harmed when DDT caused their eggshells to become weak and crack. Without healthy eggs, there were far fewer healthy osprey and eagles.



Osprey are frequently spotted hunting for fish at Whiskeytown.

Had this trend continued we might have seen the extinction of some of our country’s most distinctive bird species.

Fortunately for wildlife, DDT was banned in the United States in 1973. Unfortunately, the pesticides that were responsible for the original declines are still used in other countries where ospreys spend the winter.

Enjoy the return of this unique bird this spring at Whiskeytown as a sign of our park’s improving environmental conditions. You won’t need binoculars to observe ospreys in

action. Chances are very good that you will see one dive into the lake and emerge with a tasty, dripping trout.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SERVICES:

Visitor Center:

Located on Hwy 299 and Kennedy Memorial Drive, the Visitor Center is open daily this spring from 10 am - 4 pm. All permits and passes are available here. A large selection of books and postcards are also available. (530) 246-1225

Park Headquarters:

Open Monday - Friday 8 am - 4:30 pm. Special Use Permits are available here. (530) 242-3400

Radio:

Tune to 1440 on your AM radio for information about Whiskeytown.

Launch Ramps and Fishing Piers:

There are three boat ramps on the lake located at Whiskey Creek, Oak Bottom, and Brandy Creek Marina. There is an accessible fishing pier at Whiskey Creek.

Marinas and Store:

Oak Bottom Marina and Brandy Creek Marina - During the spring months there are no set marina or dock hours. Arrangements for services can be made by calling (530) 359-2027 or stop by in person. Boat rentals, gas, fishing supplies and other non-perishable supplies may be available.

Phones:

Phones are located at Oak Bottom (store, marina, and beach), Brandy Creek (beach and marina), Whiskey Creek launch ramp, and the Visitor Center.

Post Offices:

French Gulch is open 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Friday; Saturdays 8:30 am - 10:30 am.

Whiskeytown is located near Whiskey Creek and is open 8:30 am - 12:30 pm Monday through Friday and 10:30 am to 12:30 on Saturdays.

Old Shasta is open 8:30 am - 5:00 pm (closed noon - 1:00 pm); Saturdays 7:00 am - 8:30 am.

Nearby Services:

Old Shasta: Post Office, J's Market, Mill House Deli.

French Gulch: Post Office, French Gulch Hotel, E. Franck Bar, French Gulch Store.

Redding is 8 miles east and has all major services.

Hospitals & Clinics:

Redding: Sunset Urgent Care (530) 247-4211, Redding Medical Center - (530) 244-5400, and Mercy Medical Center - (530) 225-6000.

TO REPORT AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

40 - Year Anniversary Nears

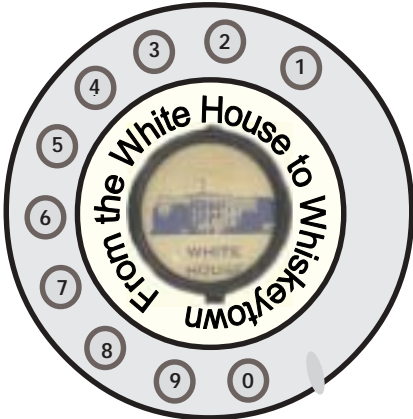


President Kennedy at Whiskeytown Dam Dedication

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ARRIVED AT WHISKEYTOWN on September 28, 1963 to an enthusiastic crowd of 10,000 people. The President’s helicopter landed on the dam where he was greeted by members of Congress, the Secretary of the Interior and community leaders of Redding, California. This was the largest public event ever to occur at Whiskeytown, and was the true beginning of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

While a small fleet of sailboats drifted across the lake, President Kennedy gave a stirring and inspirational speech about conservation leadership, recreational needs of future generations, and of accomplishments regarding development of this country’s natural resources for dams and power generation facilities.

Historians are working with park staff to collect historical documents, photographs and memorabilia of the President’s visit 40 years ago. This information will be developed into an exhibit for use during the anniversary celebration scheduled for September 28, 2003 to commemorate President Kennedy’s visit to Whiskeytown. We invite you to join us in celebrating 40 years of recreation at Whiskeytown and to learn about this historic event that brought the President of the United States and the White House to Whiskeytown. If you have any photographs or memorabilia of the President’s visit, the National Park Service would like to make digital color copies for possible inclusion in the commemorative exhibit on this historic event.



This image illustrates the center piece to the phone dial that served President Kennedy as a direct link to the White House from Whiskeytown Dam in the event a national or international emergency occurred during his visit. This piece was shared with the National Park Service by Mrs. Henry Hank Keefer. Mr. Keefer served as a Shasta County Supervisor in the early 1960s.

Call Steve Thede at (530) 242-3450 for more information.

Celebrate Earth Day at Whiskeytown

Whiskeytown is sponsoring the 12th annual Pick-Up-Lake-Litter (PULL) Day and BBQ on Saturday, April 19th. During the last several years, hundreds of volunteers have helped to clear hundreds of yards of litter from around the lake, roads and trails. This is a great opportunity to get involved with your National Park. Volunteers will be rewarded with a free BBQ lunch at the Brandy Creek Marina, a free raffle ticket for a prize drawing, and the chance to participate in the morning treasure hunt. For more information on this event or other volunteer opportunities call the Volunteer Manager at (530) 242-3421.



Volunteers help to take care of the park and kick-start the new season of enjoyment at Whiskeytown Lake.



Camping at Whiskeytown

WINTER SEASON CAMPING RATES ARE IN EFFECT from September 16th through May 14th. No reservations are available during this period. Sites are first-come, first-served. In addition to the campsite fee, a daily, weekly or annual entrance pass must be purchased for each vehicle. Golden Age or Golden Access Passport holders receive a fifty percent discount off of the following rates.

Primitive Tent Campsites Permits for these sites cost \$5.00 per night and are available only at the Visitor Center.

Brandy Creek RV Campground RV sites cost \$7.00 per night and permits are available in the campground registration box.

Making Summer Campground Reservations Oak Bottom Tent and RV Campground, Whiskey Creek Group Picnic, and Dry Creek Group Campground may be reserved for the summer season up to 5 months in advance (May 15th through September 16th). Contact the National Park Reservation Service at 1-800-365-CAMP or use their website at <http://reservations.nps.gov>.

Oak Bottom Campground. Tent sites cost \$8.00 and RV sites are \$7.00 per night. You can self-register for your site at the fee drop box in each campground.

Ranger Guided Programs

Spring is a great time to visit Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. The park offers a variety of Ranger guided activities throughout the year. Call the Visitor Center at (530) 246-1225 (10 am - 4 pm daily) for the most current information.

Being Fire Safe At Whiskeytown

SPRING IS IN THE AIR, THE HILLS ARE GREEN, WATER IS FLOWING, FLOWERS ARE BLOOMING, AND the temperatures are perfect to go outside and hike and camp at Whiskeytown.

Although everything is green and lush right now, summer is just around the corner, and in northern California it doesn’t take long before spring is over and wildfire season is here. In 2002, wildfires burned over 7 million acres. Being fire safe is everyone’s responsibility. Here is how you can enjoy safe campfires and help prevent unwanted fires at Whiskeytown.

Only build campfires in designated fire grates.

Keep burning material inside the fire grate.


Have water and a shovel nearby.

Never leave a fire, barbecue or portable stove unattended.

Thoroughly extinguish all smoking and campfire materials before leaving.

Drown, stir and feel and make sure your fire is out!

Teach children not to play with matches or lighters.



Don’t forget about fire safety at home. Make sure your smoke detectors at home are working properly. Put in a new battery.

Your Fee Dollars At Work

Entrance fees collected at Whiskeytown have allowed the park to improve visitor services and facilities. In January, 2003 the park was able to install new frost-free water towers for recreational vehicles at the Oak Bottom and Brandy Creek RV dump stations. Other projects will include the construction of a handicap accessible fishing pier at Oak Bottom across from the marina and accessible picnic sites and trails to the beaches at Oak Bottom, Whiskey Creek and Brandy Creek.

project funded by this park’s

UserFee

PARK PASSES


Passes may be purchased at self-pay stations throughout the park, and at the Whiskeytown Visitor Center. Place your pass on the driver’s side dashboard when you visit the park. By purchasing a pass, you are directly contributing to improvements at Whiskeytown.

Daily - \$5

May be purchased at fee machines at several locations throughout the park.

Annual - \$20

Valid for one year from month of purchase. Also honored at Lassen Volcanic National Park.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Annual Park Passes
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Expires 2004

Golden Age - \$10


Lifetime pass for U.S. Citizens and permanent residents that are 62 years or older.

Weekly- \$10

Valid seven days from date of purchase.

National Park Pass - \$50

Covers all National Parks with entrance fees. Valid for one year from month of purchase.



2003 National Parks Pass

PROUDLY PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

Golden Access - Free

Lifetime pass for U.S. Citizens and permanent residents that are permanently disabled.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA